

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 13, and 15-18 have been examined, and claims 7-12, 14, and 19-24 have been withdrawn from consideration, Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and claims 13, 15, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-6, 16, and 18 contain allowable subject matter.

**I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S.P. 5,963,216 to Chiarabini et al.
("Chiarabini")**

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chiarabini. Applicant submits that the claim is patentable over the cited reference.

For example, claim 15 relates to a printer that comprises a sheet feeding area and a cover member. In the sheet feeding area, a user can set up a printing medium containing at least one roll of paper and at least one sheet of paper. The cover member (1) covers a first feeding path for the roll of paper from above and (2) supports the sheet of paper from below to constitute a portion of a second feeding path for the sheet of paper. An illustrative, non-limiting embodiment of claim 15 is shown in Figs. 2 and 3 of the present application. As shown in the figures, a cover 28 covers a roll of paper 3 from above and supports a sheet of recording medium 21 from below. Based on such configuration, the printer can record information on either the roll of paper 3 or on the medium 21.

The Examiner maintains that the cover 6 shown in Fig. 2 of Chiarabini somehow corresponds to the claimed cover, but Applicant submits that the Examiner is misinterpreting and/or misapplying the teachings of the reference. For example, the cover 6 covers a roll of paper 7 and guides the paper 7 to an ejection tray (not designated) shown in Fig. 1. The path along which the paper 7 travels from the roll to the ejection tray is illustrated by the dotted line shown in Fig. 2. (Column 3, lines 63-64). In particular, the paper 7 is unwound from the roll and guided to a platen roller 10. When the paper 7 reaches the platen roller 10, it is held against the roller 10 by lower pinch rollers 20. As the paper 7 continues to travel around the platen roller 10, it is additionally held against the roller 10 by upper pinch rollers 20 and rollers 80. As the paper 7 travels from the upper pinch rollers 20 to the rollers 80, information is recorded on the paper 7 by a print head carriage 30. After the paper 7 travels past the rollers 80, it passes by an actuating lever 40 and is guided to the ejection tray via the outer curved surface of the cover 6.

As clearly shown above, the Chiarabini printer merely discloses one feeding path for only a roll of paper. Therefore, the reference does not suggest a cover that covers a first feeding path for a roll of paper and that supports a sheet of paper travelling on a second feeding path. In light of the discussion above, Applicant submits that Chiarabini does not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 15.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S.P. 938,885 to McCulley (“McCulley”)

Claims 13 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCulley.

A. Claim 13

Applicant submits that claim 13 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, as recited in the claim, the printer must be large enough to rest at ground level and maintain a sheet feeding area positioned at a height where a user can set up printing medium without having to bend substantially at the waist, rather than allow a small printing device be placed on a desk. Since McCulley clearly does not suggest such feature, Applicant submits that the claim is patentable.

B. Claim 17

Since claim 17 depends upon claim 13, Applicant submits that the claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S.P. 441,233 to Felt (“Felt”)

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felt. Applicant submits that the claim would not have been obvious over the reference.

For example, as noted above, claim 15 comprises a cover member that covers a first feeding path for a roll of paper and that supports a sheet of paper travelling on a second feeding path. On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner seems to contend that the hinged section M corresponds to the claimed cover but Applicant submits that the Examiner is misinterpreting and/or misapplying the teachings of the reference.

For instance, as shown in Fig. 1 (drawing sheet 1 or 4) and Fig. 2 (drawing sheet 2 of 4) of Felt, a roll of paper 4 is loaded in the device by pivoting the cover M around a hinge so that the cover M is in the position shown in Fig. 2. Then, the roll of paper 7 is inserted into and held within the cover M via the shaft 71, bearing 72, coupling 73, stud 74, and spring 75. (Fig. 13 (drawing sheet 2 or 4). After inserting the paper 7, the cover M is pivoted around the hinge so that the cover M is in the position shown in Fig. 1.

Although the cover M arguably covers, from above, a roll of paper 7, there is absolutely no disclosure to suggest that a sheet of paper is supported by the cover from below. In fact, if a sheet of paper is somehow placed on the outside of the cover M shown in Fig. 1, supplying the paper to the platen roller 8 and the guide rollers 9 would be impossible. The Examiner maintains that Fig. 13 somehow discloses that the cover M supports a recording medium, but such figure is merely a cross-sectional view of the cover M and the roll of paper 7 shown in Fig. 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Felt does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 15 and that the claim is patentable over the reference.

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IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

13. (twice amended) A large printer comprising:

a sheet feeding area positioned at a height at which a user standing in front of the printer can set up a printing medium without having to bend substantially at the waist,

wherein the sheet feeding area is positioned at the height when the printer is placed substantially at ground level, and

wherein a plurality of paper rolls are loaded in the sheet feeding area so as to be arranged obliquely relative to each other in the vertical direction.

15. (Twice Amended) A large printer comprising:

a sheet feeding area positioned at a height at which a user standing in front of the printer can set up a printing medium including at least one roll of paper and at least one sheet of paper, without having to bend substantially at the waist[.]; and

a cover member, which covers a first feeding path for the roll of paper from above, and which supports the sheet of paper from below to constitute a part of a second feeding path for the sheet of paper.

[wherein the printing medium includes at least one roll of paper and at least one sheet of stiff carton, and

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wherein the sheet feeding area includes an accommodation space in which the paper roll is loaded and a cover member for covering the accommodation space from above and for supporting the stiff carton from below.]